

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 300955Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6523

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 1476

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNSC JA

SUBJ: FOREIGN OFFICE THOUGHTS ON SECURITY COUNCIL MIDDLE EAST DEBATE

REF: (A) STATE 019616, (B) STATE 019613

SUMMARY: AFTER DIGESTING DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT ON MIDEAST, FONOFF CONTACT RELATED JAPANESE IMPRESSIONS OF SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE. FONOFF BELIEVES ARABS, INCLUDING PLO, MOVED FAR IN DIRECTION OF PRAGMATIC MODERATION. DRAFT RESOLUTION WAS OPPORTUNITY TO NAIL DOWN PLO TO "ACQUIESCENCE" TO CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF STATE OF ISRAEL, FONOFF BELIEVES, AND THUS, IS DISAPPOINTED BY US VETO. EVEN SO, FONOFF JUDGES MIDEAST PROBLEMS HAVE MOVED A BIT CLOSER TO SOLUTION. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFFS PASSED TEXT DEPT'S STATEMENT ON UNSC VETO TO DEPDIRGEN MURATA OF MIDDLE EAST/AFRICA BUREAU AND DIRECTOR KOBAYASHI OF UN POLITICAL DIVISION, TOGETHER WITH TALKING PAPER STRESSING

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POINTS SET FORTH IN INSTRUCTIONS. KOBAYASHI TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO

COMMENT ON US POSITION AND TO RELATE FONOFF VIEW OF SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE.

2. KOBAYASHI SAID HE WAS "DELIGHTED" TO NOTE OUR JUDGMENT THAT SC DEBATE WAS MODERATE AND RELATIVELY CONSTRUCTIVE. THE FONOFF IS EMPHATICALLY OF SAME OPINION, HE SAID, JAPANESE DIPLOMATS HAD PRESSED ARABS, INCLUDING PLO REPS, HARD NOT ONLY IN NEW YORK BUT IN BEIRUT, DAMASCUS AND CAIRO, URGING A MODERATE AND PRAGMATIC STANCE. FONOFF JUDGES ITS EFFORTS HAD SOME EFFECT; IN ANY EVENT, ARABS MADE GENUINE EFFORT, FONOFF THINKS, TO COBBLE TOGETHER RESOLUTION WHICH STOOD CHANCE OF ESCAPING US VETO.

3. FONOFF, KOBAYASHI CONTINUED, SAW PLO ACCEPTANCE OF LANGUAGE OF SIX-POWER DRAFT RESOLUTION AS VIRTUAL "ACQUIESCENCE" TO CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF ISRAELI STATE -- A MAJOR CONCESSION. US WOULD HAVE BEEN WELL-ADVISED, KOBAYASHI OPINED, TO NAIL DOWN PALESTINIANS TO THIS POSITION. JAPANESE WERE THUS MOST DISAPPOINTED BY OUR VETO, AND, KOBAYASHI SAID, FIND UNCONVINCING OUR ARGUMENT THAT PASSAGE OF "PALESTINIAN RIGHTS" RESOLUTION WOULD HAVE WRECKED GENEVA FRAMEWORK. IN REPLY, EMBOFF RETRACED ARGUMENTS IN DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT, STRESSING INTER ALIA THAT PROGRESS IN MIDEAST NEGOTIATIONS NECESSARILY CAME IN SMALL STEPS, THAT AN ATTEMPT TO FORCE ON ISREAL A NEGOTIATING FRAMEWORK IT DID NOT JOIN IN ERECTING SAW UNACCEPTABLE RISK OF SOURING ISRAELIS (AND US PUBLIC) ON NEGOTIATING THEIR DIFFERENCES WITH ARABS, AND THAT PASSIVE "ACQUIESCENCE" HARDLY A FIRM BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS. PERHAPS, EMBOFF OBSERVED, WE AND ISRAELIS COULD BE MORE ENCOURAGED ABOUT PLO'S SINCERITY IF BRITISH AMENDMENT HAD BEEN ACCEPTED.

4. IN REPLY KOBAYASHI STRESSED NECESSITY OF CONSIDERING PLO'S "FACE" PROBLEM, AND SAID FONOFF REGARDED BRITISH AMENDMENT, IN VIEW OF ITS TIMING AND INCLUSION OF LANGUAGE "NOTHING IN THIS RESOLUTION SUPERSEDES" PROVISIONS OF RES. 242 OR 338 AS TRANSPARENT CONFIDENTIAL

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PLOY TO JUSTIFY BRITISH ABSTENTION. PRESENTED EARLIER, BRITISH RESOLUTION MIGHT HAVE BEEN SLIGHTLY REVISED AND INCORPORATED; IN ANY EVENT UK DID NOT CONSULT WITH JAPANESE.

5. SUMMING UP, KOBAYASHI SAID HE FEARED THAT SC DEBATE WOULD BE BEST REMEMBERED FOR US VETO. NONETHELESS, JAPANESE SEE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT DEBATE HAS CARRIED

MIDEAST DEBATE A MAJOR STEP TOWARD IT SUCCESSFUL
CONCLUSION.
HODGSON

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